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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE
AND HOME ECONOMICS

U. S. Department of Agriculture
and State Agricultural Colleges
Cooperating.

States Relations Service,
Office of Extension Work, South
Washington, D. C.

EXTRACTS FROM 1917 REPORT OF OFFICE OF EXTENSION WORK IN THE SOUTH

County Agents: The whole system of extension work is centered about the county agents' project. More than half of all the extension funds from all sources is spent on this branch of the service. There were employed during the year 860 county agents, 28 assistant county agents, 31 county agents (boys' clubs), and 66 negro local agents. It is still the aim to have a man and woman county agent in all agricultural counties as soon as funds are available.

Congress passed the Emergency Appropriation Bill to stimulate crop production early in the new year beginning July 1, 1917, and this will temporarily provide for carrying out the idea of supplying agents for all counties. The agent is now almost universally recognized as the agricultural leader in his county. It should be understood that all results accomplished in extension work are not credited entirely to the agent's individual efforts. He is the medium through which all agricultural workers in the county, whether members of the extension force or others, must work. The ultimate success and popularity of the work in the county depend largely upon whether the agent has the ability to marshal all the forces so as to attain the maximum results. The scope of the work and the responsibilities of the agent have been so increased that, without the expert advice and assistance of specialists, members of the college force, and the loyal support and aid of the community leaders, it would be absolutely impossible to meet all the calls made upon his time. All agents are now required to submit definite plans of work at the beginning of the year, outlining the main features that it is proposed to push. A few of the fundamentals which all agents are required to know and observe are that his services belong to all the people in the county; that a limited number of concrete demonstrations with staple crops must be established in different parts of the county; that the amount of individual work must be limited; that the leading problems must be kept in mind and not to consume too much of his time on the details and minor questions that may be put to him; and that community or other agricultural organizations must be utilized to the fullest extent. Of course he must hold himself in readiness to advise and assist in all agricultural problems; but it is found necessary to confine the principal part of the work to some definite problems.

When war was declared in April, 1917, all branches of the cooperative extension work of the colleges and the United States Department of Agriculture in the Southern States were materially affected. Plans for the year were definitely changed to meet emergency conditions. It was decided in conference of all the agricultural workers of the country

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that the most important problem of the American farmer was to increase food production. All other lines of the work were made secondary to this great problem. Consequently, the larger portion of the time of all agents and other extension workers was given to productive and conservation work.

Although the emergency funds appropriated by Congress did not become available until August, 1917, the plans for carrying on extension work were definitely rearranged to meet the emergency needs of the country. In most of the States, new agents were employed before the close of the fiscal year on the regular Department, State and county funds, anticipating the subsequent passage of the Emergency Act. When the Emergency Act became a law in August, a number of the agents already appointed were transferred to these funds, but it was well into the fall before the full effect of the Emergency Act could be felt. Nevertheless, it is only just to report as a part of the accomplishments of the cooperative extension work in the fifteen Southern States the entire work for the year 1917, because this work was very largely accomplished by those who were appointed and actively in the service before the thirtieth day of June.

Organization: Special attention should be called to the fact that there was increased activity in organization work in 1917. In practically every county in the South where there was a county agent in 1917, he received his salary partly from the United States Department of Agriculture, partly from the Smith-Lever funds in the hands of the State Agricultural College, and partly from the county. The total county appropriations for that year, over and above all offsets to the Smith-Lever fund in the Southern States, amounted to \$656,714.57. These funds are generally derived from direct appropriations from the county fiscal authorities, either from the county court, county board of supervisors, county board of education, or other authority receiving their funds from public taxes. Almost all funds for the payment of salaries of county agents, therefore, come from public sources.

Types of supporting organizations by counties vary in the different Southern States according to local conditions but are developing very strongly. As showing the great increase of local farmers' or community clubs to support the county agent in his work, the following figures are given for the three years, 1915, 1916, and 1917, as taken from the agents' reports:

	1915	1916	1917
Farmers' or community clubs organized...	1,712	2,508	3,507
Membership thereof.....	44,548	78,660	113,316

In most of the States there has been a very marked development along the line of community organization. On account of the length of time some county agents have been at work and the established public character of their work, there are counties in the South which have not felt the necessity of local organization. In such counties almost every farmer knows the county agents, the public officials all know him, his

work is recognized as a public activity, and the need for definite organization would not seem so urgent as in some newer counties, although the Department has constantly urged upon all counties the advisability of perfecting strong organizations. Prior to the beginning of the war in most counties where there was an interest in organization, it was built up generally in two ways: In some States by the selection of a committee of farmers representing all sections of the county forming an advisory council with the county agent. With this as a basis, the formation of local or community organizations, federated together through this committee into a county organization, went on systematically. In some States, however, the county central organization was deferred until the community organizations could be perfected.

The emergency war work, after this country entered the contest, has brought about a greater interest in organization. While most of this has developed since the end of the fiscal year for which this report is written, it is only fair to say that in many States in the South there is a tendency to form a unit organization system, through which the National, State, and County Councils of Defense may work and through which the Food Administrators may operate, and the same organization serves as the supporting organization of the county agent. Hence the organization work in the South was at the termination of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1917, in a condition of rapid transformation, the results of which cannot be fully reported until another year has passed.

Number of Farmers reached

The total number of farmers and farm women reached in the work is a matter partially of accurate record but partially an estimate. Every county agent in the South conducts a large number of demonstrations for the purpose of illustrating the best agricultural practices. This regular and definite work has gone forward in the year 1917 as in other years. The same is true of the home demonstration agents and boys' club agents. They have conducted their work along the regular lines of enlisting persons to demonstrate on farms and in homes. Under pressure of the war, however, in 1917 a large amount of emergency work was done, and there was a great increase in the number of farmers, farm women and boys and girls reached and instructed in problems of greater food production, canning, preserving, and otherwise conserving food for future use. Agents of all kinds gave advice and instructions to everyone with whom they came in contact. The organization working with them greatly increased the number of persons reached. The reports from county agents show that there were 303,723 farms reached with definite demonstrations in the growing of crops, raising and feeding of live stock, marketing problems, etc. The number of acres covered by the crop demonstrations alone in 1917 was 2,857,485. In addition to these, a conservative estimate of the number of farms directly reached by the county agents in 1917 is 1,650,000. This estimate is conservative; and, in all probability, is much below the actual facts. The figures named are about 60 per cent of all farms in the South. The direct and indirect influence of the county agents' work

1871
The first of the year
was a very dry one
and the crops were
very poor. The
winter was also very
dry and the crops
were very poor.

The second of the year
was a very wet one
and the crops were
very good. The
winter was also very
wet and the crops
were very good.

The third of the year
was a very dry one
and the crops were
very poor. The
winter was also very
dry and the crops
were very poor.

The fourth of the year
was a very wet one
and the crops were
very good. The
winter was also very
wet and the crops
were very good.

and the proportion of the farmers reached last year was much higher than this.

In the boys' club work, conducted by the club specialist and the county agents, assisted by county superintendents, school teachers, and other group leaders, a great deal of extra work was done. As in the work with farmers and with farm women and girls, the boys' work during 1917 may be roughly divided into two kinds; regular enrollment of boys in regular clubs and the emergency work, larger in number of persons reached but possibly less strict in requirements. The total enrollment of boys in all types of clubs in the South in the past year in the regular work was 115,745, while in the emergency work between three and four hundred thousand additional boys received the personal attention of the county agents and others.

In the regular home demonstration work there were 82,227 women who did regular work in their homes for the benefit of themselves and their community clubs to which they belong. There were 3,812 community clubs of women organized for purposes of instruction. In the girls' work there were 73,306 girls in regular work organized into clubs. These people, like the demonstrators with the men, gave accurate reports of their results. For example: the girls put up 12,844,513 cans of fruits and vegetables, while the women enumerated above put up 34,993,677 cans of fruits and vegetables. These women and girls also used the new home drying process, taught for the first time last year, and thus preserved for future use 5,511,881 pounds of dried vegetables and fruits. They pickled or brined vegetables to the extent of 1,178,683 gallons.

In addition to this regular work, the agents employed in 1917 enlisted an emergency enrollment of about 2,600,000 women and girls, who undertook to raise gardens, and especially to can and preserve for future use. No written reports were received from many on this emergency enrollment, but a very conservative estimate of the results obtained by them would warrant us in saying that approximately 200,000,000 cans of fruits and vegetables were preserved for future use through the activities of the home demonstration agents in the year 1917.

In the spring of 1917 a very noteworthy piece of work was performed by the Office of Extension Work in the South, in cooperation with the Extension Service in each of the fifteen Southern States. It was discovered that the supply of tin cans, owing to war conditions, was exceedingly limited. The War Industries Board, the Food Administration, Priority Boards, etc., had so drawn upon the steel production of the country, and the ocean traffic had so limited the supply of tin that there was grave danger of home canners not being able to obtain tin cans. By cooperation with the Bureau of Chemistry, the Council of National Defense, War Industries Boards, and other public offices in Washington, an arrangement was made for the distribution of tin cans by having each home demonstration agent arrange for the pooling of orders in her county in the hands of some business man or public-spirited organization. These local parties made the orders, which were approved by the home demonstration agent, by the Directors of

Extension, and by the Office of Extension Work in the South, with the definite understanding that cans would be distributed to users at cost, plus freight and handling charges. This action not only greatly steadied the price of tin cans in the field but assisted in the distribution of approximately ten million tin cans to farm women and girls for the preservation of food for future use.

CAMPAIGNS

The food production campaign for the year 1917 was planned to stimulate food production to the extent of supplying the South with food and feed from its own soil. The "safe farming" program advocated by the Department was a simple and direct program, involving the production on every farm of the food for the family and the feed for the livestock, as a means of economic safety. An increase of corn, hay, peanuts, soy beans, velvet beans and home gardens, including both Irish and sweet potatoes and sorghum or cane for syrup, for human food and for feed for the live stock was asked. The program also emphasized the importance of each farm being, as nearly as possible, self-sustaining. It recommended the supplying of milk, eggs and meat for the family on every farm and an increased production of all of these food products, so that the excess might supply cities and towns. After the food supply had been amply cared for, it recommended the production of cotton as the main cash crop in all cotton territory.

In 1917 there was an increase in the production of all food crops in the South except rice and hay. As to rice, there was a slight decrease over 1916, due principally to protracted drouth and salt water. The corn crop increased from 803,189,000 bushels to 930,868,000 bushels, which is the next to the largest crop production in the South, the largest being in 1915. The wheat crop increased but slightly, due to the bad winter of 1916-17. The record shows an increase of from 106,626,000 bushels to 117,662,000 bushels. The oat crop, on account of the heavy winter killing already referred to, shows a very slight increase. In 1916 it was 139,179,000 bushels; in 1917, 139,503,000 bushels. The hay crop did not increase, partly due to the high price of winter legume seed, partly to seasonable conditions, but partly due to the great increase in the velvet bean crop, which is not scheduled by the Bureau of Crop Estimates as hay. The figure for 1916 was 10,879,000 tons; for 1917, 10,319,000. Irish potatoes increased from 48,691,000 bushels to 67,982,000 bushels. Sweet potatoes increased from 64,720,000 bushels to 79,630,000 bushels. The acreage in velvet beans increased 179 per cent; peanuts increased 94 per cent; while the garden, fruit and other crops of similar nature increased by several hundred per cent.

The following table shows the relative progress of the eleven cotton States of the South in the production of food and feed crops, as compared with cotton. The upper figure in each column shows the acreage and the lower figure the production. The percentage of increase in the production of corn, wheat, oats, hay, potatoes and sweet potatoes will thus be seen to be great during the nine years shown in this table, while the production of cotton has not materially increased.

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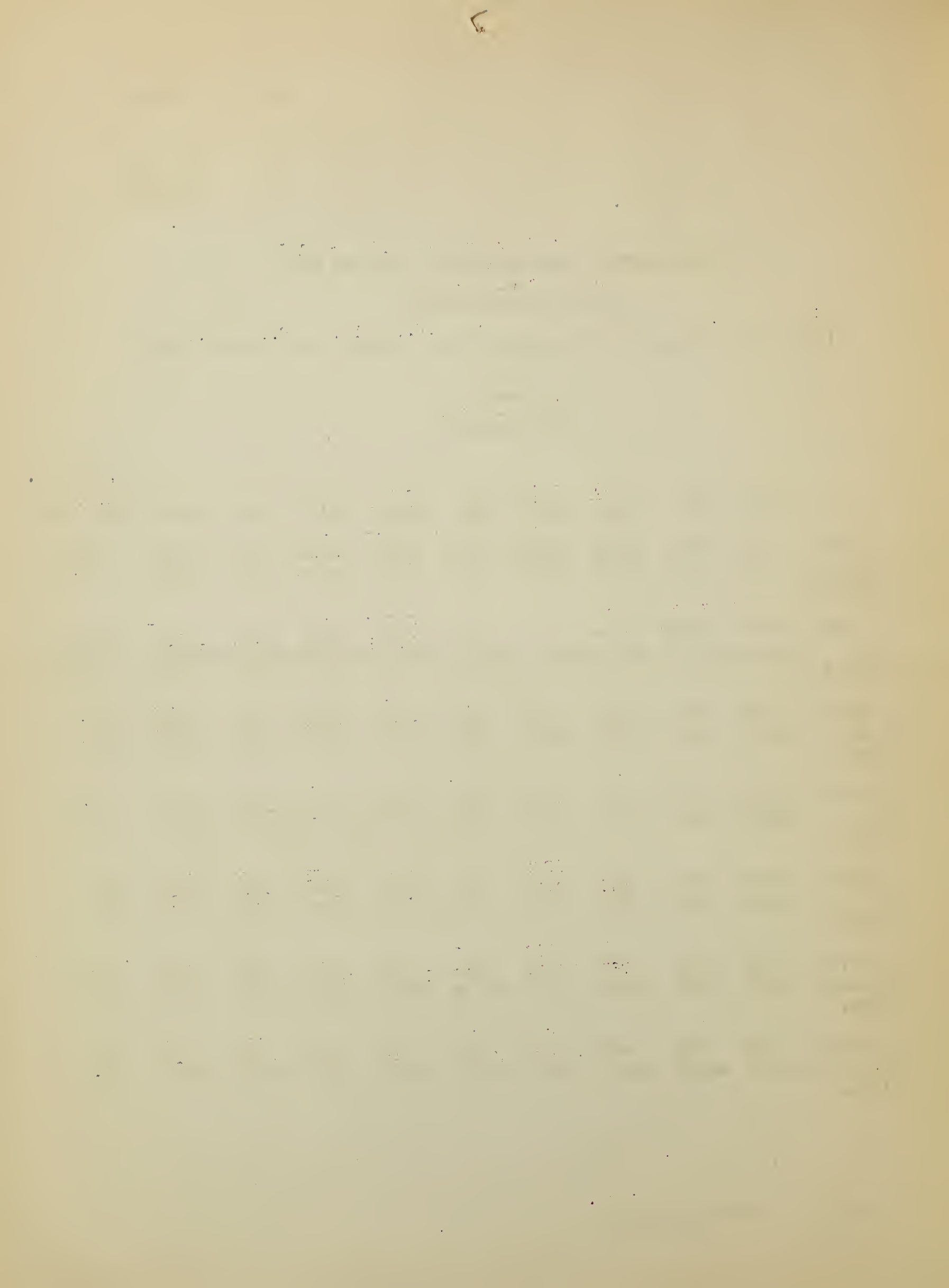
Total Acreage and Production, 1909 to 1917
in
Eleven Southern States.

(Ala., Ark., Fla., Ga., La., Miss., N.C., Okla., S.C., Tenn., Tex.)

(000 omitted)

	<u>1909</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1911</u>	<u>1912</u>	<u>1913</u>	<u>1914</u>	<u>1915</u>	<u>1916</u>	<u>1917</u>	% of increase over 1909
Acres	30834	33261	35861	34124	36916	36575	31238	34753	32278	4.68
Cotton (Bales)*	9948	11524	15549	13612	14034	15964	11092	11303	10786	8.42
Acres	30808	34119	35233	35904	35176	34074	36860	35144	39685	28.81
Corn (Bus.)	461543	664752	539136	685333	658252	610851	786045	600294	682643	47.90
Acres	2728	3914	3531	3920	4188	5315	7635	6845	6641	143.
Wheat (Bus.)	28622	55120	34619	46829	51009	85188	93276	68854	74857	162.
Acres	2979	3378	3630	3576	4140	4355	6445	6140	5584	87.4
Oats (Bus.)	51847	90577	65506	90659	97237	102685	166314	122445	120613	133.
Acres	2730	2776	2590	3262	3487	3478	3971	4560	5601	105.
Hay (Tons)	3108	3428	2611	4295	4214	4577	6476	6154	6510	109.
Acres	241	246	253	252	259	260	276	275	353	46.5
Potatoes (Bus.)	16693	17503	13765	19084	17798	16297	21621	19366	27987	67.7
Acres	520	520	492	473	515	495	606	653	834	60.
Sweet Pot. (Bus.)	43597	46502	42616	43832	47055	45481	61826	57336	72870	67.

* 500 lbs. - excluding linters.



Wheat and Rye Campaigns: In the fall of 1917 a wheat and rye campaign was conducted in the South, as in all other sections, resulting in a general increase in the seeding of these crops, ranging from 1 per cent to 100 per cent. Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina, among the heavy winter wheat producing sections, showed splendid increases, ranging from 8 to 12 per cent on large acreage. Rye campaigns showed equally as fine results.

Hog Production Campaign: A campaign to increase the production of hogs was conducted in the Southern States with splendid results. On account of the severe drouth and the lack of seed in Texas and Oklahoma, there was a decrease in actual production in these States. The other States showed a very remarkable increase: Tennessee, with an increase of her brood sows of 18 per cent; Georgia, with an increase of 7 per cent; and West Virginia, with 8 per cent, are noteworthy. Alabama increased 12 per cent, Arkansas 15 per cent, Mississippi 12 per cent, Kentucky 5 per cent, South Carolina 6 per cent, and Maryland 8 per cent.

Texas Drouth Situation: Owing to severe drouth in west Texas extending over a period of practically two years, a large section of that State was in dire distress in the summer and fall of 1917. County agents were used by the Department in emergency plans to assist the people of that section. In cooperation with the Bureau of Animal Industry, a movement was begun in the summer of 1917 to sell good breeding stock from west Texas and transport it to States and localities where there was plenty of pasturage. In this way, practically 300,000 head of cattle were taken from Texas and sold to farmers in Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Florida. Later in the fall of 1917, conditions regarding feed for remaining stock on Texas ranches became acute, and the county agents assisted the Bureau of Markets in a plan for locating supplies of feed on the one hand and procuring the purchase of the same in the drouth stricken areas on the other, the result of which was the steadying of the market and the saving of many cattle.

In addition to the many other lines of work conducted by the county agents and Home demonstration agents in 1917, they assisted other divisions of the Government, such as the Food Administration, the Treasury Department, the Department of War, Department of the Navy, Department of Justice, Department of Labor; and they were materially assisted by the Post Office Department, the Department of Labor, and Food Administration.

The extraordinary lines of work in which they assisted, beyond these already mentioned, were such things as food surveys, seed surveys, seed distribution, obtaining of credit for farmers, selling of Liberty Bonds, the eradication of live stock diseases, live stock disease surveys, insect pest surveys, campaigns for the destruction of insect pests, the marketing of farm products, preferential or priority shipments by rail of farm products and of all farm supplies, such as tin cans, farm machinery, fertilizers, lime, seeds, etc. They also assisted in much patriotic work and in the dissemination of material given out by the War Department, the Council of National Defense, and the Committee on Public Information regarding the war and other matters affecting the National policy under war conditions.

Much additional material might be given in a general report of the situation; but, as much of the additional material relates to work begun and carried out on account of the war emergency, it is believed that it should have its proper place in the next annual report.

The total amount expended for the County Agent project in the fifteen Southern States was \$1,444,099.75.

In addition to the data, already given, the following is a complete summary of the reports of county agents and county home demonstration agents.

SOME RESULTS OF EXTENSION WORK IN THE SOUTH FOR THE YEAR 1917.
(Taken from the annual reports of State Agents)

NUMBER OF DEMONSTRATIONS, ACREAGE, AND
YIELD OF CERTAIN CROPS UNDER IMPROVED METHODS
in 1917.

Crop Data Under Demonstration Methods:

Number of demonstrations in cotton - - - - -	41,379
" " acres in cotton demonstrations - - - - -	501,729
Average yield per acre in seed cotton on demonstrations - - - - -	1,032 lbs.
Number of demonstrations in corn - - - - -	75,817
" " acres in corn demonstrations - - - - -	799,476
Average yield per acre on demonstrations - - - - -	38.24 lbs.
Number of demonstrations in tobacco - - - - -	1,066
" " acres in tobacco demonstrations - - - - -	5,009
Average yield per acre on demonstrations - - - - -	1,059 lbs.
Number of demonstrations in oats - - - - -	16,134
" " acres in oat demonstrations - - - - -	159,578
Average yield per acre on demonstrations - - - - -	32.34 bu.
Number of demonstrations in wheat - - - - -	19,741
" " acres in wheat demonstrations - - - - -	156,660
Average yield per acre on demonstrations - - - - -	18 82bu.
Number of demonstrations in rye - - - - -	8,807
" " acres in rye demonstrations - - - - -	68,760
Number of demonstrations in barley - - - - -	226
" " acres in barley demonstrations - - - - -	2,490

Hay Foliage and Clover Crops:

Number of demonstrations in alfalfa - - - - -	6,316
" " acres in alfalfa demonstrations - - - - -	44,526
Number of demonstrations in crimson clover - - - - -	5,573
" " acres in crimson clover demonstrations - - - - -	37,117

Number of demonstrations in red clover - - - - -	1,531
" " acres in red clover demonstrations - - - - -	17,392
Number of demonstrations in bur clover - - - - -	563
" " acres in bur clover demonstrations - - - - -	2,187
Number of demonstrations in sweet clover - - - - -	1,840
" " acres in sweet clover demonstrations - - - - -	14,058
Total number of demonstrations in leguminous hay, forage and cover crops - - - - -	15,823
Total acreage of leguminous hay, forage and cover crops - - -	115,380
Number of demonstrations in sudan grass - - - - -	995
" " acres in sudan grass demonstrations - - - - -	11,343
Number of demonstrations in timothy mixtures - - - - -	--
" " acres in timothy mixture demonstrations - - - - -	--
Number of other hay and forage crop demonstrations - - - - -	24,963
" " acres in other hay and forage crop demonstrations - -	125,510
Total number of demonstrations in non-leguminous hay, forage, and cover crops - - - - -	25,958
Total acreage in non-leguminous and mixed hay, forage and cover crops - - - - -	136,853
Total number of demonstrations of <u>all</u> hay, forage, and cover crops - - - - -	41,781
Total acreage of all hay, forage, and cover crops - - - - -	252,133

Summer Legumes:

Number of demonstrations in cow peas - - - - -	22,099
" " acres in cow pea demonstrations - - - - -	157,134
Number of demonstrations in soy beans - - - - -	13,844
" " acres in soy bean demonstrations - - - - -	78,397
Number of demonstrations in velvet beans - - - - -	44,785
" " acres in velvet bean demonstrations - - - - -	540,448
Number of demonstrations in peanuts - - - - -	9,430
" " acres in peanut demonstrations - - - - -	100,505
Total number of demonstrations in summer legumes - - - - -	90,150
Total acreage in summer legumes - - - - -	876,484

Potatoes:

Number of demonstrations in Irish potatoes - - - - -	3,802
" " acres in Irish potato demonstrations - - - - -	14,089
Number of demonstrations in sweet potatoes - - - - -	5,452
" " acres in sweet potato demonstrations - - - - -	11,178
Total number of demonstrations in potatoes - - - - -	9,254
Total acreage in potatoes - - - - -	25,267

Orchards:

Number of demonstrations - - - - -	5,061
Total number of trees in demonstrations - - - - -	635,864
Number of orchards, inspected, pruned, sprayed, wormed and planted, due to demonstration influence - - - - -	37,017
Number of trees therein - - - - -	2,980,394

L I V E S T O C K

	: Number of Pure Blood : animals brought into : States due to Agents' : influence	: Number of : Demonstrations	: Number of head : of live stock : in these : demonstrations
Horses & Mules	: 3,711	: (Feeding) 4,115	: 6,287
Dairy Cattle	: 12,663	: 2,074	: 24,271
" "	: (Grades) 18,466	: --	: --
Beef Cattle	: 18,598	: (Feeding) 703	: 33,889
" "	: (Grades) 58,007	: (Herds Started) 1,840	: --
Hogs	: 48,931	: (Feeding) 3,041	: 48,855
"	: --	: (Herds Started) 11,301	: --
Sheep & Goats	: 4,516	: (Feeding) 63	: 3,684
" "	: (Grades) 30,815	: (Herds Started) 1,431	: --
Poultry	: --	: 5,368	: 269,840

L I V E S T O C K D I S E A S E S
A N D P E S T S

Farmers have been induced to treat for diseases and pests:

Cattle	1,380,268
Hogs (including 742,939 hogs for cholera)	1,859,394
Sheep	23,779
Horses	34,431
TOTAL	3,297,872

Various kinds of live stock actually treated by agents:

(including 170,381 hogs treated for cholera) 390,488



M I S C E L L A N E O U S R E S U L T S

Dipping Vats built - - - - -	2,256
Silos built - - - - -	5,517
Farmers instructed in care of <u>Manure</u> - - - - -	56,031
Quantity being saved - - - (estimated) - - - (tons) - - - - -	6,238,385
Farmers induced to use <u>lime</u> - - - - -	25,068
Quantity so used - - - - - (tons) - - - - -	233,860

FERTILIZERS:

Number of farmers advised regarding proper use of - - - - -	156,804
Number of demonstrations - - - - -	11,484
Quantity used on demonstrations - - - - - (tons) - - - - -	53,686
Number of communities buying cooperatively - - - - -	2,508
Value of fertilizers so bought - - - - -	\$1,351,910
Saving through such purchases - - - - -	194,789
Number of farmers home-mixing - - - - -	33,508

ORGANIZATIONS:

Community of farmers' clubs organized - - - - -	3,507
Membership thereof - - - - -	113,316
Number of visits by agents to farms - - - - -	885,966
Number of miles traveled by agents - - - - -	5,757,450
Calls on agents relative to work at office or home - - - - -	765,207
Number of farmers' meetings held under auspices of agents or Extension Division - - - - -	46,172
Meetings addressed by agents - - - - -	56,397
Total attendance at such meetings (approximate) - - - - -	3,676,590
Field meetings held by agents - - - - -	22,599
Total attendance at these meetings - - - - -	203,813
Number of bulletins or circulars of U. S. Department of Agriculture distributed by county agents - - - - -	1,249,852
Number of bulletins or circulars from State College or State Department of Agriculture distributed - - - - -	964,369
Number of visits to schools relating to work - - - - -	38,855
Extension Schools or short courses assisted in - - - - -	872
Total attendance at these schools - - - - -	136,317
Number of boys attending agricultural or other schools or colleges as result of club work - - - - -	3,326
Number of girls attending industrial or other schools as result of girls' club work - - - - -	2,341
Number of times agents have been visited by specialists from college or the Department - - - - -	10,613
Number of farmers reported by agents as keeping complete or partial cost records - - - - -	complete 6,038 partial 16,031
Number of farmers selecting seed - - - - -	102,272

